GSWS 100-3: Sex Talk:
Introduction to Contemporary Issues in Sexuality Studies

Professor: Dr. Helen Leung
Email: hhl@sfu.ca
Office: AQ 5104A
Lecture: Thursdays 12:30 – 14:20; EDUC 7618

Course Description:
GSWS 100 introduces students to major contemporary debates in sexuality studies through an exploration of how sex is portrayed, talked about, and evaluated in different media and cultural contexts. Topics covered include: an overview of sexuality theories; “pornification” and the sexualization of culture; new media and sexual publicity/privacy; cinema and sex; celebrity culture and sex scandals; popular journalism and narratives of sexual trauma; sexual identity and the new gender politics.

Learning Outcomes:
Students are expected to:
- demonstrate knowledge of contemporary perspectives on sexuality and culture
- participate intelligently in debates and discussion on sexual culture
- develop critical skills and research techniques to analyze how sex is talked about in contemporary culture
- develop capacity for intellectual curiosity and creative thinking

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Jackie Kay, Trumpet
- GSWS 100 Custom Courseware

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & Participation 25%
Mid-Term Exam 25%
Research Assignment 25%
Final Exam 25%

Description of Assignments
Attendance & Participation: Marked on students’ attendance record, level of preparation and enthusiasm in tutorials, and willingness to contribute to class discussion.

Mid-Term: An in-class exam on material learnt during the first half of the course.

Research Assignment: An exercise that requires students to conduct research on an assigned topic, prepare a report (4-5 pages) to document their research, and write a short position paper (2 pages max.) stating an original opinion on the topic.

Final Exam: A take-home, open-book exam that tests students’ understanding of major concepts in the course and ability to apply these concepts to critical analyses of sexuality and culture. All the material studied in the course will be covered. The exam is due by the scheduled exam date and questions will be made available 48 hours prior.

Prerequisite: Students who have completed GDST 200 may not complete this course for further credit.